

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I have contacted Sinclair Broadcasting, and their affiliate WICD, Champaign, IL previously this summer about their inappropriate, unprofessional, opinionionated "THE POINT" by Mark Hymann during the news broadcast. THE POINT has been used as a platform to promote President Bushes (and the Republican) adgenda. I stated to Ms. Pam Smart, Sinclair Broadcasting that the comments made in THE POINT, in my opinion, were not news, but a political adgenda that required some type of counterpoint to make it newsworthy. WICD provides some of the best news in the area, but THE POINT is really unprofessional and cheapins the whole broadcast. WICD stated to me that they are dictated by Sinclair to air this commentary, they get plenty of complaints about Mark Hymann.

The anti Kerry Documentary appears to be more of the same. The timing of this, weeks before an election, is at least unethical, and would appear illegal if it is aired with the sole intent to sway voters. Again, a reponsible counterpoint is necessary.

I am really outraged since Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, but in my opinion is abusing its privalege. I am concerned about the future when large companies are allowed to control the airways, and dictate their asgenda, rather than the real news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Sincerely,
Robert Olson